

GPC Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2022

Hybrid meeting: in-person & Zoom conference call: Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg, Dennis Christo, Robert Converse, Nancy White, Kim Paré, Charles Whittall, Dennis O'Malley
Guest: David Raphael

This Zoom conference meeting commenced at 6:40 p.m.

Dave offered a prayer of thanks for this day and for guidance on behalf of the congregation. We're thankful for all participating this evening. Amen.

VOTE: The GB meeting minutes from 9/27/22 had been previously distributed and reviewed. They were amended to correct Nancy as having made the motion to adjourn. Bob moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Doug seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Pastor's update:

The past month was routine except for the Blondin funeral on the 9/30 where Janet Whittall served as deacon. There were several extraordinary medical concerns for several people including Sandy Grayson. Keep her in your prayers. Dave Raphael has rebounded from a short hospital stay. Bob Pierce has been transferred to the Odd Fellows Home. Jackie will keep Doug posted if anything changes. Russ Vickstrom had a stent put in and was able to attend church on Sunday. He is hanging in and hanging on. The deacons have come to a consensus to have a 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service on 12/24 and no service on Christmas morning.

Finance update:

Charlie Whittall shared that we have about 27k in the bank but have under 500k in the investments due to fluctuations in the market. Charlie said he's looking to level fund next year's budget. We need to decrease where we know we can and include expected increases for utilities. Nancy asked if the \$75. town permit has been paid. Charlie said the processor, Mercedes, is out of the office this week. He'll check in with her next week. Nancy thinks it can be paid online. No bill has come from Housatonic because they've been going to the Y. We're supposed to be paying for the well water testing.

Charlie will contact Otis Elevator tomorrow as we've paid for a new door and we want to know when the installation will occur.

There was a discussion about whether Doug has completed annual evaluations for Carolina and Annie. The Employee Manual describes the process for the person to select a couple of people to provide information from their Team or the congregation at large for review with the pastor.

Dennis C. said the Garden Room skylights have been installed but are missing an ice dam. Rod White has been working with the contractors to complete the indoor part of the renovations.

Dennis C has not followed up in small claims court regarding the Ritacco Brothers but will obtain an application and complete through the GPC office probably after the fall fair.

The new electronic sign was installed on 10/18. The electrician has come and put power out there but needs to come back to ensure the coupling from the power source to the sign. The electrician needs to move the sensor in the conference room so anyone walking by, in the hallway, doesn't turn the conference room light on. Ken White thinks the electrician should also check on the kitchen fan to ensure the roof leaking is not from that area.

Food Pantry update: Donna Fife is going to take over responsibility for the Food Pantry. Joyce Smith will continue for a while longer to help support Donna and Wendy Fillow.

Dennis thought the Congregational Meeting on October 23rd went well despite our lack of foresight to include virtual viewers. Dave added that when people share their announcements from wherever they are seated/standing cannot be heard online. We should have people come up to a microphone or the podium to share the updates.

The Cub Scouts did a great job with the fall cleanup on the lower parking lot October 15. Dennis C. & Carlo Cimato helped too. A spring cleanup will be scheduled.

The 10/26 Octoberfest fellowship was cancelled due to poor attendance. Doug said that he and Karen will try again for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Selah winterizing and cleanup took place last Friday. Nancy said she's done doing it. It's time consuming and requires a lot of people and effort. New stairs are needed behind the bunkhouses for a grade egress. Opening camp is a huge chore. It's time to pass this on. Dave added that a new CMR will be coming from the state next year requiring all camps to have a boating safety training.

Our ServeSafe certification is expiring. Steve Anderson stepped up to recertify. Charlie left the study guide in the mailboxes. Kim will remind Jan it's there so Steve can schedule the class when he's ready to go.

New Business:

Dennis C. said Shon Rainford/Food Hub expects to be here a bit longer, through 2023, as they're still working on getting the space in Union Station squared away. A portion of their monthly rent includes utilities. We maintained the same monthly rent, for the last two years at \$1,500. but they should anticipate a 25% increase next year for utilities (gas, electric, and trash disposal). \$200. should be tacked on for the ongoing use of the two rooms in the basement.

WIMS is still coming weekly and are paid through the end of October. We expect they'll renew for next year.

The Church Fair is on 11/5 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. We need to publish/post, get out the word to as many people as possible for a good turnout since we didn't have one the last couple of years.

Christ's Love Church left a message on the office voicemail, requesting use of the chapel for Sunday service at 1 p.m. Nancy reached out to the woman who made the inquiry on 10/11 but she never called back. The requested time may be a challenge for other groups (NA, Girl Scouts) already scheduled in the church.

Dave shared proposed Pastor Parish Relations Team (PPRT) guidelines using Matthew 18:15-17 as a model. There was discussion about this revision and adding a designated alternate/substitute should Dave Raphael, Bob Converse, or Lyn Wasilewski be unable to meet due to illness or other circumstance.

VOTE: Dennis O. made a motion to add Jan Anderson to the PPRT. Bob seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

VOTE: Charlie made the motion for the Governing Board to go into Executive Session and allow guest David Raphael to stay for the discussion. Bob seconded. All in favor. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Dennis O. suggested permanently returning to the chapel for services. There was a discussion regarding heating the sanctuary and consensus building for the current alternating weeks. We will revisit this agenda item at next month's GB meeting.

Dennis O. made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Unanimous agreement. The meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

The next regular Governing Board meeting is scheduled for hybrid & in-person & Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk